

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting wireless communications, the method comprising:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from a base station to a field unit;

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field unit to the base station;

assigning physical slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and the field unit;

assigning a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes to the field unit;

transmitting an indication of the plurality of PN codes to the field unit;

receiving a first message in at least one of the physical slots, wherein the first message includes one of the plurality of PN codes;

analyzing the one of the plurality of PN codes to determine a timing adjustment to be made at the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station; and

analyzing a marker PN code included in a message received in a time slot to determine a timing adjustment to be made at the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station; and

transmitting a feedback message containing the timing adjustment second message that includes the timing adjustment to the field unit.

2. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as in The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of marker is a string of pilot symbols PN codes comprises a plurality of symbols.~~

8. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as in The method of claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a multi-bit value transmitted to the field unit notifying the field unit of that indicates an amount to advance or retard timing.~~

12. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as in The method of claim 1, wherein the physical time slots are assigned in the first and second channel based on a predetermined offset.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as in The method of claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a single bit in a time slot that indicates whether a corresponding field unit should advance or retard timing.~~

16. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A base station operable in a wireless communication network, wherein a first channel supports communication from the base station to a field unit

and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station, the base station comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes to the field unit; and

a receiver configured to receive a message containing a PN code from a field unit to determine a timing adjustment to be made at the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station;

wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit a feedback message containing the timing adjustment to the field unit.

31. (New) The base station of claim 30, wherein the first and second channel comprise physical slots.

32. (New) The base station of claim 30, wherein the receiver is configured to receive the message containing the PN code over a plurality of symbols.

33. (New) The base station of claim 33, wherein the timing adjustment is a multi-bit value indicating an amount to advance or retard timing.

34. (New) A field unit operable in a wireless communication network, wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station, the field unit comprising:

a receiver configured to receive an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes from the base station; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a PN code selected from the plurality of PN codes received from the base station;

wherein the receiver is further configured to receive a feedback message containing a timing adjustment based on the transmitted PN code from the base station.

35. (New) The field unit of claim 34, wherein the first and second channel comprise physical slots.

36. (New) The field unit of claim 34, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the PN code over a plurality of symbols.

37. (New) The field unit of claim 34, wherein the timing adjustment is a multi-bit value indicating an amount to advance or retard timing.

38. (New) A method for use in a field unit operable in a wireless communication network, wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes from the base station;

selecting a PN code from the plurality of PN codes received from the base station;

transmitting the selected PN code to the base station; and

receiving a message containing a timing adjustment based on the transmitted PN code from the base station.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
adjusting transmission timing based on the timing adjustment.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the first and second channel
comprise physical slots.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the transmitter is configured to
transmit the PN code over a plurality of symbols.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the timing adjustment is a
multi-bit value indicating an amount to advance or retard timing.